GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6836
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
FACILITIES TO FARMERS
JASWANT SINGH YADAV;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for the welfare of fruits growers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose during 2002- 2003;

(c) the steps being initiated by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have provided any facilities to the farmers to preserve their produce like vegetables and fruits before the same is handed over to whole sale outlets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(c): The Government has not formulated any scheme exclusively for the welfare offruit growers in the country. However, the Government is implementing a CentrallySponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture − Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans under whichassistance is being extended for the development of fruits also. Under this scheme the State Governments can prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and requirement. The fruit growers can avail the benefits of the scheme by way of getting good quality planting material of fruit crops through nurseries, assistance for area expansion, productivity improvement programmes and training on latest technologies. An outlay of Rs.736.86 crores has been earmarked for the Scheme during 2002-03.

(d)&(e): The Government is providing assistance since 1999-2000 in the form ofback ended subsidy through the National Horticulture Board under the Scheme onCapital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization / Expansion of Cold Storageand Storages for Horticulture Produce for enabling the farmers to preserve their horticulture produce. So far a storage capacity of 24.12 lakh tonnes have been created by establishing 521 cold storages units in the country.